In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-2, 6-11, 15-20, and 24-27, as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for providing differentiated quality of service in an application server, comprising:

a server system receiving a request for service from a client, wherein said request for service includes an encoding specifying a current user role and a requested service; and

in response to receiving the request for service:

accessing pre-determined policy data;

establishing a quality of service context in the application server space based on the specified current user role included in said request for service and based on said policy data; and

propagating said quality of service context with said request for service in the server system, wherein said propagating comprises sending data indicating the quality of service context to an application server or application component in the server system along with the request for service.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said request for service further includes information indicating at least one of a time constraint or a user identity.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said quality of service context includes information indicating service class and a deadline.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said establishing a quality of service context is completed at an ingress point.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein said ingress point is at least one of a web server or a protocol manager service within said server system.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising, propagating the same quality of service context with a subsequent sub-request of said request for service.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said propagating includes inserting said quality of service context into data sent with the request for service adjacent to at least one of a security context and a transaction context.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said propagating comprises a load balancing service dispatching said request for service, including said quality of service context, to an application server in a plurality of application servers in the server system, based on said quality of service context.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said propagating comprises a request manager service dispatching said request for service, including said quality of service context, to a software component in a plurality of software components in the server system, based on said quality of service context.

10. (Currently amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium, comprising program instructions executable to implement:

a server system, configured to:

receive a request for service from a client, wherein said request for service includes an encoding specifying a current user role and a requested service; and

in response to receiving the request for service:

access pre-determined policy data;

establish a quality of service context in an application server space based on the specified current user role included in said request for service and based on said policy data; and

propagate data indicating said quality of service context to an application server or application component in the server system along with said request for service in the server system.

11. (Currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said request for service further includes information indicating at least one of a time constraint or a user identity.

12. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said quality of service context includes information indicating service class and a deadline.

13. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said establishing a quality of service context is completed at an ingress point.

14. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein said ingress point is at least one of a web server or a

protocol manager service within said server system.

15. (Currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, further comprising program instructions executable to: propagate the same quality of service context with a subsequent sub-request of said request for service.

16. (Currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said propagating includes inserting said quality of service context into data sent with the request for service adjacent to at least one of a security context and a transaction context.

17. (Currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said propagating comprises a load balancing service dispatching said request for service, including said quality of service context, to an application server in a plurality of application servers in the server system, based on said quality of service context.

18. (Currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said propagating comprises a request manager service dispatching said request for service, including said quality of service context, to a software component in a plurality of software components in the server system, based on said quality of service context.

19. (Currently amended) A first computer system, comprising:

a processor;

a memory storing program instructions;

wherein the processor is operable to execute the program instructions to implement a server system configured to:

receive a request for service from a client, wherein said request for service includes an encoding specifying a current user role and a requested service; and

in response to receiving the request for service, the server system is further configured to:

access pre-determined policy data;

establish a quality of service context in an application server space based on the specified current user role included in said request for service and based on said policy data; and

propagate data indicating said quality of service context to an application server or application component in the server system along with said request for service in the server system.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, wherein said request for service further includes information indicating at least one of a time constraint or a user identity.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein said quality of service context includes information indicating service class and a deadline.

22. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein said establishing a quality of service context is completed at an ingress point.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein said ingress point is at least one of a web server or a protocol manager service within said server system.

24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, further comprising program instructions to: propagate the same quality of service context with a subsequent sub-request of said request for service.

25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, wherein said propagating includes inserting said quality of service context into data sent with the request for service adjacent to at least one of a security context and a transaction context.

26. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, wherein said propagating comprises a load balancing service dispatching said request for service including, said quality of service context, to an application server in a plurality of application servers in the server system, based on said quality of service context.

27. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, wherein said propagating comprises a request manager service dispatching said request for service, including said quality of service context, to a software component in a plurality of software components in the server system, based on said quality of service context.